

590

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SOURCE:

1. In December 1952 the Korean Association in Harbin, under the control of the Racial Bureau of the Harbin City Government, served as the administrative organ for Koreans who were Chinese citizens. Groups such as the Korean branches of the Harbin headquarters of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), the New Democratic Youth Corps, and the Women's Association were organized under the Korean Association. The Korean Association was responsible for political indoctrination, cultural propaganda, and special organizations for Koreans in Harbin. It maintained a registry of all Korean families in Harbin so that they could be mobilized for political or social purposes, or placed under surveillance for suspected political deviation. Volunteers for the Korean war and supporters for political demonstrations or meetings were recruited through the association office. On holidays the association sponsored various programs including lectures, plays, movies, and athletic meets.
2. The headquarters of the Korean Association was in a two-story building directly across from the Harbin General Police Bureau. Also in the building were the Korean Artisans Association and a library called the Korean Cultural Center, which were under the control of the Harbin Educational Bureau. The library had approximately 200 books and periodicals from the Soviet Union and North Korea. It was also equipped with musical instruments for Korean classical music, and dance costumes which were used for recreational meetings. The library served as a reading room from 12 noon to 5 p.m., after which it was used as a meeting hall for various social organizations and for recreational gatherings. A dance was held each Saturday night. On the first floor of the building were the library, 12 meters long, 6 meters wide, and 4 meters high, and two reading rooms. On the second floor were six offices, each 6 meters long and 4 meters wide, which were used for the Korean Association office, a meeting room, and a dispensary and pharmacy operated under the association's supervision.

25X1A

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25X1A

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-2-

3. The five or six men employed by the association were actually employees of the Harbin City government. The chairman of the association was YI Hyŏn-chun (2621/63*3/0193), about 40 years old, a primary school graduate and member of the CCP. YI was also chairman of the Korean Cultural Center and of the Korean Branch of the Harbin City headquarters of the CCP. Prior to 1950 when YI became chairman of the Korean Association, he was chief of the Korean section of the Harbin General Police Bureau. He spoke fluent Chinese.

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